

# Up to Umno to make talks a reality: Mahfuz

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**JELI, Thurs:** PAS is leaving it to Umno to make the Malay unity talks a reality by fulfilling the party's prerequisites, its youth leader, Mahfuz Omar, said.

He said the prerequisites are nothing big and can be easily fulfilled by Umno as the party is the backbone of the federal government.

Speaking at a ceramah organised by Parti Keadilan Nasional here last night, Mahfuz said it is not difficult for Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Dr Mahathir Mohamad to fulfil the request by PAS.

"For example, on the issue of oil royalty to Terengganu, all Mahathir has to do is to call the local and foreign media and announce that the government is restoring it."

Also present was Keadilan Youth chief Ezam Mohd Noor.

The Malay unity talks, originally scheduled for Monday, was put off by PAS because Umno did not fulfil the prerequisites it sought.

PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor said Umno failed to

provide the conducive environment needed for the talks.

Mahfuz said Umno must fulfil the three conditions - restoring Terengganu oil royalties, allowing *Harakah* to be published twice a week, and banning use of the term Islam for names of political parties - before PAS can sit at the negotiating table.

He also said the demands are nothing new, as certain quarters claim, because they had been raised at the Umno-PAS technical committee meetings for the unity talks.